

charter school. My home state of Wisconsin currently supports 95 charter schools, educating 7,210 students. There are over 550,000 students enrolled in 2,150 charter schools nationwide. Not only is education a top priority, but it is the key to a successful future. These schools are providing an excellent education for the American youth.

Many charter schools serve significant numbers of students with lower income minority students, and students with disabilities. A charter school does not and cannot discriminate against any student. The contract for the schools is required to explain how the school will achieve a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils that reflects the school district population.

Charter schools have the unique ability and freedom of setting up their own governance and administrative structures. Many of the schools create decision-making boards that include some or all of a school's teachers, while others have parent-teacher committees to address various school needs. Some schools have students playing a vital role in their governing bodies.

Over the years, charter schools have received significant bipartisan support from the Administration, the Congress, State governors and legislators, educators, and parents throughout the Nation because the schools have been effectively educating their students. A good education is invaluable to any student and we have the responsibility to provide every child with the opportunity to learn. The Nation should take a week to honor the model education system set up by the charter schools.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 95. I am proud to acknowledge and commend the charter school movement for its contribution to improving out nation's public school system. A charter education is a special and rigorous public education for more than 500,000 children nationwide. Charter schools serve a broad range of students, many of which better meet the needs of students than conventional schools. Charter schools exercise increased autonomy in return for increased accountability. They are accountable for both academic results and fiscal practices to their sponsors, their parents, and the public.

The charter schools in my district, Syzygy Charter School, Visional Academy Charter School, Tomorrow's Builders Charter School, and Fort Bowman Academy Charter School, increase opportunities for learning and access to quality education for all students, create choice for parents and students within the public school system, encourage innovative teaching practices, and encourage community and parent involvement in public education.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to establish a National Charter School Week. The charter schools in my district and nationwide demonstrate impressive levels of achievement and accomplishment, and I commend them for their continued dedication to serve. For these reasons, I support this legislation.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida

(Mr. KELLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 95, as amended. The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1467

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1467.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

#### RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF 4-H PROGRAM

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 112) recognizing the upcoming 100th anniversary of the 4-H Youth Development Program and commending such program for service to the youth of the world.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 112

Whereas the 4-H Youth Development Program celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2002;

Whereas the 4-H Youth Development program sponsors clubs in rural and urban areas throughout the world;

Whereas the 4-H Clubs have grown to over 5.6 million annual participants ranging from 5 to 19 years of age;

Whereas today's 4-H Clubs are very diverse, offering agricultural, career development, information technology, and general life skills programs; and

Whereas the 4-H Youth Development Program continues to make great contributions toward the development of well-rounded youth: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recognizes the upcoming 100th anniversary of the 4-H Youth Development Program and commends such program for service to the youth of the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER).

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 112.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 112, which extends the recognition of this body to the 4-H Youth Development Program on the occasion of its 100th anniversary of its creation next year.

The 4-H is the original "learning by doing," and like all great ideas in education, it originated at the local level as the product of local educators and concerned citizens who saw a way to improve agricultural education.

4-H participants pledged their heads to clear thinking, their hearts to greater loyalty, their hands to greater service and their health to better living for their clubs, their communities, their country, and their world, not a bad code by which to live.

Even before Congress began supporting land-grant extension programs that took the agricultural advances of academia into working farms, 4-H understood the value of putting ideas into action.

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It is at the heart of this organization.

From its roots in agricultural education, food preservation, and nature study, 4-H has spread to include training in a variety of areas, more than 110 areas, in fact. These areas include the arts, environmental education, communication, science and technology, and healthy life-style education. With new programs, 4-H has continued to help more and more young people learn skills to succeed later in life and become positive contributing leaders. Today, only 10 percent of participating youth live on farms. In fact, 30 percent are minorities. More than 6.5 million youth are members. Some of the well-known former 4-H members are Johnny Carson, Faith Hill, Reba McEntyre, and Dolly Parton.

The leadership skills 4-H members develop, the practical knowledge they accumulate in the programs they study, the friendships they build, and the experiences they have in competition and problem-solving make them better people and make our country a better place.

Earlier this year, my family and I had the happy privilege of visiting with several 4-H'ers at the Florida State Fair in Tampa and the Orange County Fair in Orlando, Florida. These young people had prepared several impressive agricultural exhibits, and they were also very knowledgeable about the cows and the pigs and other livestock they had raised. These 4-H members made quite a positive impression on my two young children.

In a changing world, I am very glad that 4-H has been there for America's young people and has continued to grow with them. 4-H helps to prepare them for the challenges they continue to face and help America to continue to be the place where the ideas and beliefs that made it great are still taught and practiced.

Congratulations 4-H on 100 years of success and service, and best wishes for 100 more.